said about shortcomings in passenger amenities, etc. There is a proposal for doubling. We are doing doubling of the lines. We are also doing the ongoing projects. We are also doing electrification of railway lines in the North-Eastern Region. In this Budget, we have given Rs. 740 crores for the North-Eastern Region.

*226. [The questioner(s) (Shri Varinder Singh Bajwa) was/were absent. For answer *vide* page 22 *infra*.]

Disinvestment of Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.

*227. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has moved a proposal for disinvesting Manganese Ore (India) Limited through sale of Government equity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for disinvestment in the above company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) In accordance with the policy of the Government for sharing ownership of Central Public Sector Undertakings with the public and to meet the Securities and Exchange Board of India guidelines requirements, a proposal for disinvestment of 10% of the paid up capital of Manganese Ore (India) Limited out of Government of India's shareholding has been sent to the Department of Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance, which is the nodal Ministry in this regard.

श्री सभापति : जल्दी से सवाल पूछ लीजिए।

श्री आर.सी. सिंह : सभापति जी, मैं संक्षेप में पूछ रहा हूं। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो मैंगनीज ओर है, उसके share disinvestment करने के लिए मंत्री जी इतने उतावले क्यों हैं? Stake-holders के लिए जो...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Increased demand of fertilizers in Punjab

*226. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increased demand of fertilizers in Punjab this year as compared to the previous year in the wake of a need to push up production of Rabi crops for 2009-10 due to the shortage in production of Kharif crops in 2009 and drought conditions;